



## HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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### IMPORTANT ADDENDUM – RUSSIAN DRUGS SAGA EXPLODES

Hello everyone

We just can't get away from the almost daily announcements in the quickly unfolding Russian Drugs scandal. I woke up this morning to an astonishing press release by RUSADA. Here is the take from the NZ Herald which has consistently been at the forefront on reporting on this ongoing issue (see [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/athletics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=19&objectid=11389346&ref=rss](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/athletics/news/article.cfm?c_id=19&objectid=11389346&ref=rss)).

#### 3 Russian Olympic champion race walkers banned for doping 5:10 AM Wednesday Jan 21, 2015

MOSCOW (AP) " Five Russian race-walkers, including three Olympic gold medalists, were banned by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency on Tuesday.

Bans of three years, two months were handed to Olympic champion **Sergei Kirdyapkin** and **Olga Kaniskina**, as well as 2011 world champ **Sergei Bakulin**. All three doping cases backdated to late 2012. The dates mean Kirdyapkin remains eligible to defend his men's 50-kilometer title at the 2016 Olympics. **Valery Borchin**, an Olympic gold medalist in 2008, was banned for eight years from October 2012 for a second doping offense, while **Vladimir Kanaykin** was banned for life for a repeat offense.

The bans do not affect any Olympic medals, although five world championship gold medals and a silver medal from 2009 and 2011 may be re-awarded. The world championship results affected are Kaniskina's 20K wins from 2009 and 2011, Borchin's 20K wins in 2009 and 2011, and Kirdyapkin's win in the 50K in 2009. In addition, Kanaykin could lose his 20K silver medal from 2011.

Further sanctions could still apply for Bakulin and Kirdyapkin after photos posted online appeared to show them competing at a Russian meet last month, when they were suspended pending the ruling. The IAAF has said it is investigating both of them, and further sanctions could rule the pair out of next year's Olympics.

Kaniskina has retired and moved into coaching as head of Russia's training center, which appears to be in violation of her ban.

All five athletes' bans are based on the findings from their biological passports, which track anomalous blood values over long periods of time. As well as their bans from late 2012, each of them has had results annulled for select periods of preceding years. Those periods do not include the 2012 Olympics for any of the five athletes except for Borchin, who did not finish his only race at the London Games, the men's 20K. In the case of Kirdyapkin, who won the men's 50K, his ban is written to allow his 2012 results from June 12 to Oct. 14 to stand, in between periods in which other results have been annulled.

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency general director Ramil Khabriev said in a statement that the periods of the annulled results were chosen for purely scientific reasons. "Having analyzed the profiles of the athletes' blood, taking into account the opinion of leading invited hematology experts, a decision was taken on the annulment of results for those periods when abnormal results were detected," he said.

The five athletes had all been suspended since late 2012 with no public announcement until the International Association of Athletics Federations confirmed that situation to The Associated Press this week. Khabriev said the delay was because the IAAF passed the cases to the Russian athletics federation for adjudication, but he said the federation lacked the resources to deal with "the specificity of biological passport cases."

Khabriev said processing of the cases resumed only this summer after the agency started to investigate the Russian race-walking training center for multiple doping violations. During the course of that investigation, he said the agency obtained the biological passport data and began its own analysis.

The Russian athletics federation and the national anti-doping agency both faced accusations of misconduct in a documentary broadcast last month by German TV channel ARD. The federation was accused of operating a systematic doping program, while agency employees were accused of covering up positive tests by leading athletes.

In a statement on Tuesday, Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko criticized the federation, which he said had allowed a situation to develop which "goes against our state anti-doping policy, which we have done very much to propagate."

Mutko said he could not intervene directly but called on the federation to consider "staffing and structural changes in the national team."

This is the big one we have been waiting on since 2012 when the rumours first started to circulate.



Photo collage Mark Shearman (<https://twitter.com/AthleticsImages>)

First let's review where this leaves Victor Chegin and Russian racewalking – I make it 21 banned Chegin athletes so far and counting (but I might have missed some). The sad thing for our sport is that all but one of the 21 are racewalkers. Below is the updated list of recent offenders – and a nice file photo of Chegin himself. Of course, if I were to keep going back through the books to the nineties, the list would be huge! This is not a recent phenomenon in Russia – it is just a lot more visible now.



## #BANCHEGIN – THE LIST OF SHAME

The List of Shame (see <https://slightlyconfusedsports.wordpress.com/2014/06/22/the-chegin-connection/>) was published in 2014 and lists the known recent drugs offenders coached by the now infamous and discredited Victor Chegin. At the time it was published, the list stood at 18. Now it stands at 21 with three offenders added and two repeat offenders done again this week.

- **Igor Yerokhin**  
2008 Olympian who served a suspension between Olympics. Returned to finish 5th at London 2012 but that result was voided when examination of his biological passport showed problems which eventually led to him being given a life ban.
- **Tatyana Mineyeva**  
European U23 champion currently serving a ban for blood doping.
- **Dementiy Cheparev**  
World Youth medallist who tested positive for Fenoterol.
- **Ekaterina Medvedeva**  
2012 World junior champion currently serving a ban after testing positive for EPO.
- **Pyotr Bogatyrev**  
2013 European U23 20km champion banned after bio passport problems.
- **Irina Yumanova**  
World Youth medallist suspended after a positive test at this year's Russian Championships. Awaiting a full hearing.
- **German Skurygin**  
Briefly world champion in 1999 until the drug tests came back. Returned in 2003 to win World Championship silver. Died at the age of 45 of a heart attack, possibly or presumably caused by his drugs history.
- **Valeriy Borchin**  
Olympic champion in 2008, World champion in 2009 and 2011. Served a 12 month ban between 2005 and 2006 and was then involved in a bizarre series of events in the week before the Beijing Olympics when the Russian news agency All Sport reported that he had failed an out of competition test for EPO. Borchin denied the allegation and the matter was never elaborated. Now the truth comes out. In January 2015 he was handed an eight-year ban dating from October 15, 2012. RUSADA also announced a loss of results for him from July 14, 2009 to September 15, 2009; June 16, 2011 to September 27, 2011 and April 11, 2012 to September 3, 2012, with those date ranges including when he won two world titles.
- **Sergey Morozov**  
Morozov set a time at the 2011 Russian Championships that broke the existing 20 km world best though it was never ratified as a record due to a lack of post-race drug testing. He is currently serving a life ban after twice testing positive for EPO.
- **Vladimir Kanaykin**  
World record holder and World Championship medallist over 20 km. Missed Beijing Olympics after testing positive for EPO. In January 2015, it was announced that he had been handed a life ban for further biological passport anomalies.
- **Viktor Burayev**  
World Championship medallist over 20 km. Missed Beijing Olympics after testing positive for EPO.
- **Aleksey Voyevodin**  
Winner of medals at European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games. Missed Beijing Olympics after testing positive for EPO
- **Nadezhda Mokeyeva**  
An 18 year old, one of the world's top juniors, suspended after a positive test at this year's Russian Championships. Awaiting a full hearing.
- **Tatyana Akulinushkina**  
19 years old. Recently completed a ban for Fenoterol.
- **Artur Grigoryev**  
Currently serving a ban for Carphedon.

- **Yelena Lashmanova**  
The undisputed star of women's race walking after her 2012 Olympic win. In 2014 it was announced that the current world and Olympic champion had tested positive for the experimental drug GW501516. After promising results in medical tests, research on GW1516 was abandoned after it was discovered to cause cancerous tumours in rodents.
- **Mikhail Lemaev**  
The odd man out - not a walker but a marathon runner who competed at the 2009 World Championships. Another who was banned after analysis of his biological passport.
- **Stanislav Emelyanov**  
A 17th walker (18th overall) joined the list of shame in July 2014. 2010 European 20km champion or so everyone thought. The IAAF subsequently announced that, due to abnormalities on his biological passport, he has been suspended for 2 years and his results have been voided since the day before he won his European title in 2010.
- **Sergey Kirdyapkin**  
Won Olympic 50km race walk gold in London in 2012. It was announced in January 2015 that Kirdyapkin would be banned for three years and two months from October 15, 2012, with results from July 20, 2009 to September 20, 2009; June 29, 2010 to August 29, 2010, and December 17, 2011 to June 11, 2012, also to be annulled. Given those date ranges, this does not affect his London 2012 gold but the IAAF and IOC may well have something to say about that.
- **Olga Kaniskina**  
Won all major women's titles from 2007 onwards, including the 2008 Olympic 20km title. Did not suffer her first international loss until her silver in the 2012 Olympics, amusingly beaten by yet another Russian drugs cheat in the person of Lashmanova. It was announced in January 2015 that Kaniskina was to be banned for three years and two months from October 15, 2012, with the cancellation of results from July 15, 2009, to September 16, 2009, and July 30, 2011 to November 8, 2011.
- **Sergey Bakulin**  
The 2011 world 50km race walk champion was also among those handed bans by RUSADA in January 2015. Bakulin was handed a three years and two month ban from October 15, 2012.

So it's officially 21 by my count. But that does not take into account the multiple drugs busts and long / lifetime bans which have been issued for repeat offenders **Valeriy Borchin**, **Sergey Morozov** and **Vladimir Kanaykin**. Further the biological passport failures of the recently announced five athletes (January 2015) indicate long running drugs usage dating back to 2009. Are we so gullible that they think we will believe that these are the isolated actions of individuals rather than institutionalised drugs cheating on an unprecedented scale, coming out of the Saransk School of Walking.

As usual, Evan Dunfee is on top of it all – <http://dunfeewalks.weebly.com/canadian-tf-blog/russian-doping-scandal>.

#### What medals are initially effected?

- Kirdyapkin loses gold medals from the 2009 World Champs and 2012 World Cup 50km events
- Kaniskina loses her golds from the 2009 and 2011 World Champs
- Borchin loses his gold from the 2009 World Champs
- Kanaykin loses his silver from the 2011 World Champs 20 km

#### What other performances should be reviewed?

What a complete crock. RUSADA have banned these 5 walkers in the leadup period to the 2012 Olympics (various timeframes from 2009 onwards) and then banned them completely from late 2012 onwards. BUT THEIR 2012 OLYMPIC MEDAL PERFORMANCES ARE ALLOWED TO STAND. Their reasoning "Having analyzed the profiles of the athletes' blood, taking into account the opinion of leading invited hematology experts, a decision was taken on the annulment of results for those periods when abnormal results were detected." How convenient - now they can all keep their 2012 Olympic medals!

That's not the way it is supposed to work. You are banned from 2 years from your first failure, not for selective little bits here and there. It is another poor attempt by the Russians to manipulate the system. But it is not done and dusted yet. The fate of the Olympic medals won by these walkers will ultimately be decided by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). I am confident that they will eventually have their bans extended so that the following performances will also be declared invalid

- Kirdyapkin – Gold in 2012 Olympic 50km
- Bakulin – 5<sup>th</sup> place in 2012 Olympic 50km

- Kaniskina – silver in 2012 Olympic 20km

As Jared Tallent tweeted this morning: *According to RUSADA I'm now the 2012 World Cup champ but not the 2012 Olympic champ. Kirdyapkin shown to be doping in May but clean by Aug.*



#### Where to from here?

I really think the following actions have to now take place

- Ban Viktor Chegin for life (#banchegin)
- Extend the bans just announced on the newest 5 Russian drugs cheats to include the 2012 Olympics. Anything less is allowing Russia to win yet again.
- Investigate why the Directorship of the Saransk School of Walking was awarded to Olga Kaniskina when she was under ongoing investigation re passport anomalies and facing almost certain bans.
- Investigate why Sergey Morozov, who is banned for life, was on the Russian feed station at the 2014 World Cup 50km race, official lanyard and all. This was reported to the IAAF in May last year – nothing has been heard since. Rumour has it that he continues to be associated with the Saransk School of Walking.
- Make a quick decision on extending the bans on the currently banned walkers who competed in the Mordovian Indoor champs – Kirdyapkin, Bakulin, Medvedeva and Lashmanova. Their bans now need to be extended until Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- Identify the people who allowed banned walkers to compete in the Mordovian Champs and then tried to cover it up with false pictures and blatant lies. We certainly know one of the names - Dmitry Fedotov was the organizer of the event and an employee of the Saransk Walking School. They need to be banned as well. There are no extenuating circumstances here!
- The entire Saransk School of Walking needs to be sanctioned. I would push for complete shutdown for a period of at least 6 months, before eventual reopening (if they so desire) with a new name (you can't possibly continue to call it after Chegin!) and with completely new staff.
- It is well within the IAAF's right to hand down a sanction to the entire Russian Athletics Federation given the number of violations and attempted coverups. These rights can be found under section 14.7 of the IAAF Constitution. So how about they ban Russia from the 2015 IAAF Championships. What clearer message could be sent.
- Take the 2016 and 2018 Racewalking World Cups away from Russia (they are currently allocated to Cheboksary) and put them out to tender again for new bids.
- Fully investigate why it has taken over 2 years for these biological passport cases to be finally resolved and why there was complete secrecy during those entire two years. This is contrary to the rules and is just plain unacceptable.

**Finally PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE Share this around. The fight to cleanup Russian Racewalking is far from over.**

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